

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Upon entry of the amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-15 will be all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-10 are withdrawn. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of the subject matter of claims 13 and 14.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 12 and 13.

Claims 12 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 14 has been amended to be written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Claim 16 is added, containing the subject matter of claim 15 and depending from claim 14.

No new matter is added.

II. Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11, 12 and 15 are rejected as under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takashi (JP 2000-164925).

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 11 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13. Claim 13 is not subject to a rejection under §103. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 12 and 15 are also patentable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 11.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 12 and 15 under §103.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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